

Town of Rowe – FY2013  
Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 16, 2012 – 4:00pm

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilson at 4:05pm.

**Present:** Chairman Marilyn Wilson, Vice-Chairman Paul McLatchy III

**Absent:** Selectman Noel Abbott

**Audience:** Finance Committee Chairman Dennis May and Finance Committee member Myra Carlow

**FY2014 Budget:**

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS:** Rick Williams, Chairman of the Board of Assessors (BOA) phoned in to present and discuss the BOA budget for FY14. Mr. Williams wants to work with a different valuation company in the future as the one Rowe currently engages for evaluations of the utilities in Rowe, Mainstream, has not performed well recently. The computer in the Assessor's Clerk's office is between 8-10 years old. \$1,300.00 was appropriated last year to upgrade this computer, but it has not yet arrived.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Emergency Management Director Ed May and Fire Chief Paul McLatchy, Jr., made their budget presentation. Mr. May stated that when the old water heater failed, he replaced it with an on-demand water heater. He stated that he makes most of his discretionary purchases at the end of the fiscal year. Right now he is exploring options to purchase a new thermal imaging camera and it will be purchased this fiscal year. Chief McLatchy spoke of long-range plans to purchase a brush truck which would enable rescuers to access remote and wooded areas.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 14, 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting were reviewed and approved as written by a vote of 2-0.

**FY2014 Budget:**

**BOARD OF HEALTH:** Board of Health (BOH) Chair David Cousineau presented the BOH budget. In spite of the increase in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District assessment (FY2013 \$3,266 v. FY2014 \$3,781...a \$556 increase), the overall BOH budget is reduced by 1.83%. A Special Project is replacement of the compactor shed roof for \$1,450.

**IT Review:** Chairman Wilson reported that VeritechIT had done "walk-around" and looked at all the computers, printers, & servers used in Rowe government, gathered information, and will get back to us with a full assessment of our needs.

**Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Town Meeting:** Chairman Wilson and Vice-Chairman McLatchy discussed the preparations for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Jan. 23, 2013, including extra chairs, testing the sound system, and having the Town Hall in readiness in case of overflow from the Fire Station and audio/visual linkage between the Fire Station and Town Hall.

**FY2014 Budget:**

**POLICE DEPT:** Police Chief Henry Dandeneau presented the Police Department's budget. He stressed that the officers are over-stretched between police details for Wired West installation and a great increase in domestic call-outs, and that routine patrols have been reduced.

- **CJIS/MIRCS System:** Horace Moody, Rowe's IT Support person, purchased a new computer for the Police Department, but it and its software, Windows 7, did not work with the State-required record system and licensing system, both of which only run on Windows XP, which is what the Police Department already had. Now, the Police Department has two computers and two sets of software, one to run the record system and one to run everything else. The computer with Windows XP is older than 5 years.
- **Officers' Wages:** The Police Department does not have enough hours in its budget to cover the call-outs, the details for Wired West, and the necessary patrol hours. Chief Dandeneau is strongly urging an increase in the budget to cover hours for another officer. Chairman Wilson asked if there would still be a strain on the department when Wired West has finished the installation. The answer is yes, due to the great increase in domestic call-outs.
- **Police Chief Pay:** The high percentage increase in the requested Police Chief's pay is to reflect reality, Chief Dandeneau claimed, for the past two years, the pay has been artificially low. Chairman Wilson accepted Chief Dandeneau's rationale for both another officer and the wage increase for the Chief. Vice-Chairman McLatchy was hesitant about the proposed wage increase for the Chief and stated that he does not feel comfortable making a decision tonight.

**PARK COMMISSION:** MaryJo Fuller, Park Commission Chairman, presented the Park budget, along with Commissioners Michael Laffond and Bruce Cowie, and Park Ranger Sean Loomis.

- **Irene Damage:** Mr. Loomis explained that money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) totaling \$17,300.00 is in a separate account and is ear-marked for bridge repairs due to damage during Hurricane Irene. Not all the details of the FEMA money were transferred from City & Town accounting software to Fundware accounting software and so this is an accounting detail which needs to be corrected before the end of the fiscal year. The repairs to the Pelham Brook Bridge are complete. The work on Potter Brook Bridge is well under way.
- **Play Structure:** The play structure and the exercise equipment detailed in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) are not being pursued at this time. The Park would like to take the play structure from the school (which must be moved prior to demolition of the school) if the school agrees; and the exercise equipment in the Town Hall is all in good working order and none of it needs to be replaced now.
- **Rec Program:** Ms. Fuller explained that the Recreation Assistants are counselors and by State Law are required by State for supervision of the children in a set ratio of 1:6 (1 counselor for each 6 children).
- **Bridge Maintenance:** Bridge maintenance is needed to replace joists and stringers underneath some of the bridges. The native logs are not lasting as well as hoped and so pressure treated wood will be used for replacement.
- **Park Hdqtrs Garage Door:** The new garage door will be an insulated barn door type and larger so that the ranger machine can be housed at the park, rather than at the town garage.
- **Utilities:** The electricity number is low because the Park will be getting credits from the solar installation at the Town Garage; and the propane number is also low because the wood stove should decrease the amount of propane used.
- **Paddle Board:** The \$950.00 for the stand-up paddle board might come from the insurance money for the theft of the canoe last summer.
- **CIP:** The Special Projects from the Capital Stabilization Plan are Beach Sand to refresh the existing sand because it is very stoney; and a new double fireplace of Goshen stone. Vice-Chairman McLatchy asked if cinder blocks could be used instead of Goshen stone to reduce the price.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm; Vice-Chairman McLatchy seconded the motion; the motion passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Wilson

Approved:

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Marilyn Wilson, Chairman

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Paul McLatchy III, Vice Chairman

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[Absent]  
Noel Abbott

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Date Approved

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**Attachments:**

- Agenda